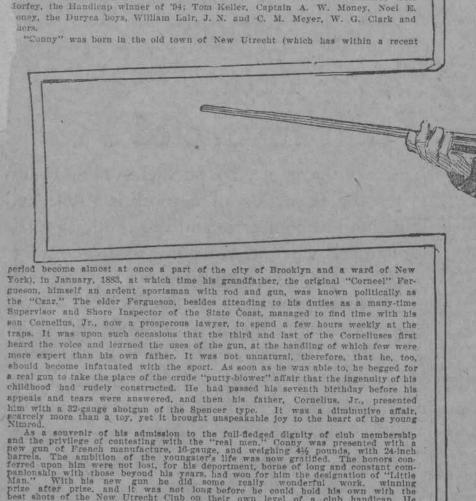
A BOY WHO SHOOTS WITH CHAMPIONS.

When that enthusiastic company of crack wing-shots of the country shall again face the traps in another Grand American Handicap race—the greatest of all the live-bird contests of the year's shooting calendar-they will in all probability find a

new and extremely youthful aspirant for the most coveted honors for an opponent.

Little "Conny" Fergueson, or Cornelius Fergueson, III., as he takes pride in writing his name, when nine years of age was elected a member of the New Utrecht tod and Gun Club, one of the best-known of the many shooting organizations that bound in and around the Greater New York, and which includes, besides his own ather, Cornellus Fergueson, Jr., such famous shooters as G. W. Coulson, Tom Jorfey, the Handicap winner of '94; Tom Keller, Captain A. W. Money, Noel E. oney, the Duryea boys, William Lair, J. N. and C. M. Meyer, W. G. Clark and



him with a 32-gauge shotgun of the Spencer type. It was a diminutive affair, scarcely more than a toy, yet it brought unspeakable joy to the heart of the young Nimrod.

As a souvenir of his admission to the full-fledged dignity of club membership and the privilege of contesting with the "real men." Conny was presented with a new gun of French manufacture, 16-gauge, and weighing 4½ pounds, with 24-inch barreis. The ambition of the youngster's life was now graifed. The honors conferred upon him were not lost, for his deportment, borne of long and constant companionship with those beyond his years, had won for him the designation of "Little Man." With his new gun he did some really wonderful work, winning prize after prize, and it was not long before he could hold his own with the best shots of the New Utrecht Club on their own level of a club handicap. He surprised them all—even the older shooters—during the season of 1894, doing some very remarkable work, week after week at the club shoots, which are held at Woodlawn Park, L. L., and it looked very much as though he would finish the year in the lead. The hope was not altogether realized, but when the averages for the year were made up and the award of prizes made, it was found that "Conny" had only been relegated to second place by the very narrow margin of one point. As it was, he received a handsome gold watch for his superior skill, his score having been ulnety-four kills out of a possible hundred. The winner of the first prize—

C. A. Sykes—had only scored one more bird.

When it is remembered that the New Ctrecht grounds are noted for their fast traps and first-class birds, the achievement is a great one. About a year ago "Conny" had a new Greener gun built especially for him, weighing 6½ pounds, and of beautiful workmanship and finish. A first he shot poorly with it, as the added weight did not seem to fit him as well as his little 16-gauge. He laid it aside for a while, but a few months ago tried his new piece for a second time, and has shot it ever since

eclined.
c boy's most notable match was with Count C. F. Lenone, of Passalc, in say last, the conditions being thirty birds each, the Count standing at the graph of the county at the 25-yard line. He defeated the Count easily, kill-centy-eight of his thirty, the Count being able to grass but eighteen.
conny Fergueson is without question the bost live-bird short of his age in the to-day—a fact that is conceded by all the authorities of the sport. He is a red, well-built little fellow, of affable manner and the nerve of a veteram, nothing disturbs at the traps, and he is, beside, one of the bright pupils at rooklyn Polytechnic Institute.



GONNIE FERGUESON AT THE TRAFS.

Mavertisements.

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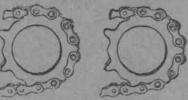
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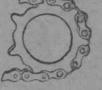
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